

AF

Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence

6 APR 1950

Assistant Director for Reports and Estimates

Air Force Proposal for Russian/English Dictionary

REFERENCE: Memorandum from AD/OSI, dated 23 March 1950, subject as above

1. By above reference, AD/ORE has been requested to provide OSI with any comments or recommendations he wishes to make concerning the Air Force Russian/English Dictionary proposal furnished as enclosure to the reference.

2. ORE agrees that a complete polytechnical dictionary would be a valuable tool, particularly as more effort is put into examining Soviet progress in technical fields. However, effort and money should not be expended in a particular field without positive assurance that existing dictionaries are not adequate. Further, should the project be undertaken, for Central Intelligence Agency needs serious consideration should be given to supplementing the dictionary with a card system that would provide a genuinely current reference.

3. The following information may be helpful:

a. Within the next year the Army Map Service intends to issue a glossary of Russian technical terms. It will contain well over 15,000 entries covering the fields of geology, geodesy, and a large variety of terms encountered in topographic mapping and aerial photography.

b. In a recently published dictionary ("Russian - English Dictionary of Meteorological Terms and Expressions" by Werner A. Baum, PhD, Hobart Publishing Company, Washington, D. C., June 1949), the compiler states:

"While we have available...an excellent general technical Russian - English dictionary, there do not exist a sufficient number of satisfactory specialized works permitting translation in the idiomatic language peculiar to each individual science."

/S/  
THEODORE RABBITT

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